

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of providing suction and irrigation to an open wound surface comprising the steps of:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source and a fluid source for irrigation, ~~and~~ passageways connecting the holes to the port, and spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface,

placing the ~~wound contacting surface~~ spacers against the surface of the wound to space the wound contacting surface apart from the wound surface of the wound, and

providing a cover over and sealed about the wound and the member to define a space above the wound in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the flexible member is transparent for observing the surface of the wound.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of irrigating the surface of the wound by expelling irrigation fluid from the holes.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the irrigating step includes irrigating the surface of the wound by introducing irrigation fluid through a plurality of irrigation ports in communication with the holes of the member.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an open wound surface comprising the steps of:

- placing a relatively thin and flexible member adjacent the wound surface, the member having a surface adapted to face the wound with holes in the surface, a port, and passageways connecting the holes to the port,

- spacing the surface of the member apart from the wound surface to define a space between the wound and the surface of the member,

- covering the wound and the member with a film,

- sealing the film to healthy skin surrounding the wound to create a sealed environment between the film and the wound surface,

- coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source,

- creating a negative pressure in the space between the wound and the surface of the member,

- coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source, and

- irrigating the wound surface by sending an irrigation liquid from the irrigation source through the member to the surface of the wound.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the port of the member is a first port and the member includes a second port, and wherein the step of coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source includes coupling the first port to the vacuum source, and further wherein the step of coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source includes coupling the second port to the irrigation source.